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EXAMINER	
PRUCHNIC, STANLEY J	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2859	

DATE MAILED: 05/25/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/706,937	DAMMANN, HANS-JOACHIM	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Stanley J. Pruchnic, Jr.	2859	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 November 2003 is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 10/096,158.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed in parent Application No. 10/096,158, filed on 11 March 2002.

Specification

2. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The following title is suggested: --FIBER OPTIC TEMPERATURE MONITORING SYSTEM--.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 2, 4, 6, 7, 14, 16, 17, 24, 26 and 27 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In Claim 2, in Line 2, please insert the word --**said**-- before "**location**" in order to more clearly describe the invention.

In Claim 2, in Line 2, please insert the word --**a**-- before "**return time**" in order to more clearly describe the invention.

Please correct Claims 12 and 22 similarly, as above, for proper use of definite and indefinite pronouns such as "said" and "a" in order to ensure that the claim limitations have proper antecedent basis.

In Claim 2, in Line 2, perhaps the last word in the line, the word "**return**" after the phrase "**and return time of said**" should be deleted and replaced therefor by the word --**reflection**-- in order to more clearly describe the invention.

In Claim 12, in Line 2, perhaps the last word in the line, the word "**return**" after the phrase "**and return time of said**" should be deleted and replaced therefor by the word --**reflection**-- in order to more clearly describe the invention.

In Claim 22, in Line 3, perhaps the last word in the line, the word "**return**" after the phrase "**and return time of said**" should be deleted and replaced therefor by the word --**reflection**-- in order to more clearly describe the invention.

In Claim 4, in Line 2, please insert the word --**said**-- before "**comparison signal**" in order to more clearly describe the invention.

In Claim 6, in Line 3, please insert the word --**a**-- before "**comparison signal**" in order to provide proper antecedent basis.

In Claim 7, in Line 2, please insert the word --**said**-- before "**comparison signal**" in order to more clearly describe the invention.

Please correct Claims 14, 16, 17, 24, 26 and 27 similarly to the suggestions for claims 4, 6 and 7, as above, for proper use of definite and indefinite pronouns such as "said" and "a" in order to ensure that the claim limitations have proper antecedent basis.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **ZOERNER** (U. S. Patent No. 5,306,088).

ZOERNER discloses a system for monitoring a temperature condition, comprising:

a fiber optic cable 8;

a light emitting device 10 coupled to said fiber optic cable and configured to input a light pulse (L) into said fiber optic cable 8;

an optical receiver 12 coupled to said fiber optic cable and configured to receive a reflection signal (L") that arises from said input light pulse (L) in said fiber optic cable 8 (see Col. 2, Lines 8-14 and Col. 5, Lines 3-6); and

a processor 14 (Col. 2, Line 66 - Col. 3, Line 1; Col. 5, Lines 16-20) configured to determine a temperature condition (Col. 5, Lines 16-20) along the fiber optic cable and a location of the temperature condition along the fiber optic cable based on said reflection signal as claimed by Applicant in Claim 1.

Regarding Claim 2, ZOERNER discloses said processor 14 is configured to determine said temperature condition and location based on an amplitude and return time of said [return] reflection signal (Col. 5, Lines 16-20).

Regarding Claim 3, ZOERNER discloses said processor is configured to determine said temperature condition based on at least one of a threshold value and a comparison signal (Col. 4, Lines 31-40).

Regarding Claims 5-6, ZOERNER discloses said processor is configured to determine different portions of the fiber optic cable based on different return times of said reflection signal (Col. 5, Lines 3-6); and said processor is configured to determine said temperature condition in each of said different portions of the fiber optic cable based on at least one of a threshold value and comparison signal corresponding to each of said different portions of the fiber optic cable.

Regarding Claim 8, ZOERNER discloses said processor is configured to determine said location by determining at least one of a location relative to an overall length of the fiber optic cable, and an absolute distance from one end of the fiber optic cable (Col. 5, Lines 1-20).

Regarding Claim 9, ZOERNER discloses said processor is configured to determine at least one of a temperature duration and a temperature progression (Col. 3, Lines 32-36) over a predetermined time interval.

6. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by SAI (U. S. Patent No. 5,765,948, hereinafter ***SAI'948***).

SAI'948 discloses a system for monitoring a temperature condition, comprising:

a fiber optic cable 3;

a light emitting device 4 coupled to said fiber optic cable and configured to input a light pulse (a) into said fiber optic cable 3;

an optical receiver 7 coupled to said fiber optic cable and configured to receive a reflection signal (backscattered light b) that arises from said input light pulse (a) in said fiber optic cable 3 (see Col. 8, Lines 10-30); and

a processor 32 (Col. 9, Line 34 - Col. 10, Line 43) configured to determine a temperature condition (temperature distribution) along the fiber optic cable and a location of the temperature condition along the fiber optic cable based on said reflection signal as claimed by Applicant in Claim 1.

Regarding Claim 2, SAI'948 discloses said processor 32 is configured to determine said temperature condition and location based on an amplitude and return time of said [return] reflection signal (Col. 11, Lines 31-41).

Regarding Claim 3, SAI'948 discloses said processor is configured to determine said temperature condition based on at least one of a threshold value and a comparison signal (Col. 12, Lines 1-38).

Regarding Claim 4, SAI'948 discloses said processor is configured to adjust (by normalizing) a comparison signal (*i.e.,* compensate for the attenuation of backscattered light due to the fiber; Col. 1, Lines 36-47) to detect different temperature conditions, *i.e.,* to detect the different temperatures along the length of the fiber as claimed by Applicant in Claim 4 (Col. 12, Lines 11-39).

Regarding Claims 5-6, SAI'948 discloses said processor is configured to determine different portions of the fiber optic cable based on different return times of said reflection signal (Col. 11, Lines 31-41); and said processor is configured to determine said temperature condition (the temperature) in each of said different portions of the fiber optic cable based on at least one of a threshold value and comparison signal corresponding to each of said different portions of the fiber optic cable.

Regarding Claim 7, SAI'948 discloses said processor is configured to adjust (by normalizing) each of said corresponding comparison signals to detect different temperature conditions (the temperature as a function of position) among said different portions of the fiber optic cable, as the intensity distribution signals (Raman-shifted signals, Stokes and anti-Stokes signals) are considered to be the comparison signals which function to detect different temperatures at each of said different portions of the fiber optic cable (Col. 12, Lines 11-39).

Regarding Claim 8, SAI'948 discloses said processor is configured to determine said location by determining at least one of a location relative to an overall length of the fiber optic cable, and an absolute distance from one end of the fiber optic cable (Figs. 6-8).

7. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by IIDA *et al.* (U. S. Patent No. 5,356,220, hereinafter ***IIDA'220***).

Regarding Claims 1-10:

IIDA'220 discloses a system for monitoring a temperature condition, comprising:

a fiber optic cable 2;

a light emitting device (i.e., a Laser Diode 5; Fig. 7) coupled to said fiber optic cable 2 and configured to input a light pulse 18 (Col. 4, Lines 49-55; 65-68) into said fiber optic cable 2;

an optical receiver (photodiodes 9, 10; Col. 5, Lines 17-21) coupled to said fiber optic cable and configured to receive a reflection signal (19, Raman backscattered light) that arises from said input light pulse 18 in said fiber optic cable 2 (see Col. 5, Lines 22-47); and

a processor 12 (Col. 5, Lines 55-63) configured to determine a temperature condition (temperature distribution) along the fiber optic cable and a location of the temperature condition along the fiber optic cable based on said reflection signal as claimed by Applicant in Claim 1.

Regarding Claim 2, IIDA'220 discloses said processor 12 is configured to determine said temperature condition and location based on an amplitude and return time of said [return] reflection signal (Col. 3, Lines 44-51).

Regarding Claim 3, IIDA'220 discloses said processor is configured to determine said temperature condition based on at least one of a threshold value and a comparison signal (Col. 5, Lines 55-63).

Regarding Claim 4, IIDA'220 discloses said processor is configured to adjust a comparison signal (Col. 6, Lines 1-13; *i.e.,* the temperature distribution is determined by comparing two distributions, as a result of adjusting the length of the fiber; Col. 4, Lines 63-68) to detect different temperature conditions, *i.e.,* to detect the different temperatures along the length of the fiber as claimed by Applicant in Claim 4.

Regarding Claims 5-6, IIDA'220 discloses said processor is configured to determine different portions of the fiber optic cable based on different return times of said reflection signal (Col. 3, Lines 44-51); and said processor is configured to determine said temperature condition in each of said different portions of the fiber optic cable based on at least one of a threshold value and comparison signal corresponding to each of said different portions of the fiber optic cable.

Regarding Claim 7, IIDA'220 discloses said processor is configured to adjust each of said corresponding comparison signals to detect different temperature conditions among said different portions of the fiber optic cable, as the two intensity distribution signals are considered to include the comparison signals which function to detect different temperatures at each of said different portions of the fiber optic cable (*i.e.,* the temperature distribution is determined by comparing two phase-shifted distributions; Col. 6, Lines 1-13).

Regarding Claim 8, IIDA'220 discloses said processor is configured to determine said location by determining at least one of a location relative to an overall length of the fiber optic cable, and an absolute distance from one end of the fiber optic cable (Figs. 6-8).

Regarding Claim 9, IIDA'220 discloses said processor is configured to determine at least one of a temperature duration and a temperature progression (i.e., "temperature changes rapidly"; Fig. 1, Step S5) over a predetermined time interval.

Regarding Claim 10, IIDA'220 discloses a signal generator configured to initiate at least one of an alarm (Fig. 1, Step S5), a safety measure or a corrective measure (Sprinkling Control Computer 25; Fig. 10; Col. 9, Lines 50-66).

Regarding Claims 11-20:

IIDA'220 discloses a system for monitoring a temperature condition, comprising:

a fiber optic cable 2;

means (*i.e.*, a Laser Diode 5; Fig. 7) for inputting a light pulse 18 (Col. 4, Lines 49-55; 65-68) into said fiber optic cable 2;

an optical receiver (photodiodes 9, 10; Col. 5, Lines 17-21) coupled to said fiber optic cable and configured to

means (photodiodes 9, 10; Col. 5, Lines 17-21) for receiving a reflection signal (19, Raman backscattered light) that arises from said input light pulse 18 in said fiber optic cable 2 (see Col. 5, Lines 22-47); and

means 12 (Col. 5, Lines 55-63) for determining a temperature condition (temperature distribution) along the fiber optic cable and a location of the temperature condition along the fiber optic cable based on said reflection signal as claimed by Applicant in Claim 11.

Regarding Claim 12, IIDA'220 discloses said processor 12 is a means for determining said temperature condition and location based on an amplitude and return time of said [return] reflection signal (Col. 3, Lines 44-51).

Regarding Claim 13, IIDA'220 discloses said processor is a means for determining said temperature condition based on at least one of a threshold value and a comparison signal (Col. 5, Lines 55-63).

Regarding Claim 14, IIDA'220 discloses said processor is means for adjusting a comparison signal (Col. 6, Lines 1-13; *i.e.,* the temperature distribution is determined by comparing two distributions, as a result of adjusting the length of the fiber; Col. 4, Lines 63-68) to detect different temperature conditions, *i.e.,* to detect the different temperatures along the length of the fiber as claimed by Applicant in Claim 4.

Regarding Claims 15-16, IIDA'220 discloses said processor is means for determining different portions of the fiber optic cable based on different return times of said reflection signal (Col. 3, Lines 44-51); and said processor is means for determining said temperature condition in each of said different portions of the fiber optic cable based on at least one of a threshold value and comparison signal corresponding to each of said different portions of the fiber optic cable.

Regarding Claim 17, IIDA'220 discloses said processor is means for adjusting each of said corresponding comparison signals to detect different temperature conditions among said different portions of the fiber optic cable, as the two intensity distribution signals are considered to include the comparison signals which function to detect different temperatures at each of said different portions of the fiber optic cable

(*i.e.*, the temperature distribution is determined by comparing two phase-shifted distributions; Col. 6, Lines 1-13).

Regarding Claim 18, IIDA'220 discloses said processor is means for determining said location by determining at least one of a location relative to an overall length of the fiber optic cable, and an absolute distance from one end of the fiber optic cable (Figs. 6-8).

Regarding Claim 19, IIDA'220 discloses said processor is means for determining at least one of a temperature duration and a temperature progression (i.e., "temperature changes rapidly"; Fig. 1, Step S5) over a predetermined time interval.

Regarding Claim 20, IIDA'220 discloses a means for generating a signal to initiate at least one of an alarm (Fig. 1, Step S5), a safety measure or a corrective measure (Sprinkling Control Computer 25; Fig. 10; Col. 9, Lines 50-66).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 21-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over IIDA'220 in view of SAI'948.

IIDA'220 discloses or suggests all the limitations as claimed by Applicant in Claims 21-30, including the limitations of Claim 21:

a computer 12 (data processing unit) containing program instructions (Col. 6, Lines 1-13; Col. 7, Lines 14ff) for execution on a computer controlled system for monitoring a temperature condition, which when executed by the system, cause the system to perform the following steps:

input a light pulse 18 (Col. 4, Lines 49-55; 65-68) into a fiber optic cable 2 of the system;

receive a reflection signal that arises from said input light pulse in said fiber optic cable; and

determine a temperature condition (temperature distribution) along the fiber optic cable and a location of the temperature condition along the fiber optic cable based on said reflection signal.

IIDA'220 further discloses or suggests the system performs all the steps by computer control as claimed by Applicant in Claims 21-30 as described above in Paragraph 8 with respect to claims 11-20.

IIDA'220 does not explicitly disclose the computer readable medium containing the program instructions as claimed by Applicant in Claim 21.

IIDA'220, to summarize, is shown to teach all of the limitations as claimed by Applicant, with the exception of the computer readable medium containing the program instructions.

SAI'948 discloses (Fig. 5; Col. 9, Line 34 - Col. 10, Line 43) "Measurement Execute Program 41" and "Arithmetic Processing Program 42" stored in "Main Memory 36" in order that the CPU 34 carries out the execution and arithmetic operations

necessary to control the system for monitoring a temperature condition. SAI'948 further discloses "Secondary Memory 38" (Col. 10, Lines 38-43) which is a storage medium containing other programs, *etc.*

SAI'948 discloses that is known in the art to provide a computer controlled fiber optic temperature monitoring system with computer readable medium and storing the program instructions for the computer.

SAI'948 further teaches or suggests that it is advantageous to provide computer readable medium containing the program instructions in order to benefit from the ability to carry out the desired instructions automatically by the computer.

SAI'948 is evidence that ordinary workers in the field of fiber optic temperature monitoring would recognize the benefit of providing computer readable medium containing the program instructions as taught by SAI'948 for the instructions/programming of IIDA'220 in order to benefit from the ability to carry out the desired instructions automatically by the computer.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the computer controlled system of IIDA'220 with a computer readable medium containing the program instructions in order to carry out the desired instructions automatically by the computer as taught by SAI'948.

Double Patenting

10. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11

F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970);and, *In re Thorington,* 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

11. Claims 1-20 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-10 and 12-21 of copending Application No. 10/706,935 (hereinafter referred to as SISTER). Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because (1) the method claims in the SISTER application require the claimed elements of the system, or their equivalents, as claimed in the instant application and (2) the system claimed in the instant application is configured for practicing the method claimed in the SISTER application.

The claimed method for monitoring a temperature condition, as claimed by Applicant in Claims 1 and 12 of the SISTER application, includes the following method steps which require the elements of the instant application, or their equivalents, arranged and functioning as claimed in the instant application:

The step for inputting a light pulse into a fiber optic cable requires a light emitting device coupled to a fiber optic cable;

The step for receiving a reflection that arises from said input light pulse in said fiber optic cable requires an optical receive coupled to said fiber optic cable configured to receive the reflection signal that arises from said inputting of a light pulse into the fiber optic cable; and

The step for determining a temperature condition along the fiber optic cable and a location of the temperature condition along the fiber optic cable based on said

reflection signal requires a processor, or an equivalent device, configured to perform said functions as claimed by Applicant in the instant application.

The system, as claimed by Applicant in Claims 1 and 12 of the instant application, includes these elements: a fiber optic cable; a light emitting device; an optical receiver; and a processor, each arranged and functioning together for monitoring a temperature condition as claimed in the SISTER application:

a light emitting device - is coupled to a fiber optic cable and configured for "inputting a light pulse into a fiber optic cable";

an optical receiver - is coupled to said fiber optic cable and configured to receive the resulting signal - thereby "receiving a reflection that arises from said input light pulse in said fiber optic cable"; and

a processor is configured to determine (for determining) "a temperature condition along the fiber optic cable and a location of the temperature condition along the fiber optic cable based on said reflection signal" as claimed in the instant application.

Similarly, all the steps of the method claimed in the SISTER application in Claims 2-10 and 13-21 have a one-for-one correspondence to the respective claims 2-10 and 12-20 of the instant application.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

12. Claims 21-30 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-10 of copending Application No. 10/706,935 (SISTER) in view of **SAI'948**.

SISTER, to summarize, claims or suggests all the limitations as claimed by Applicant in Claims 21-30, including all the method steps, but SISTER does not claim a computer readable medium containing program instructions for execution on a computer controlled system, to perform those steps.

SAI'948 discloses (Fig. 5; Col. 9, Line 34 - Col. 10, Line 43) "Measurement Execute Program 41" and "Arithmetic Processing Program 42" stored in "Main Memory 36" in order that the CPU 34 carries out the execution and arithmetic operations necessary to control the system for monitoring a temperature condition. SAI'948 further discloses "Secondary Memory 38" (Col. 10, Lines 38-43) which is a storage medium containing other programs, *etc.*

SAI'948 discloses that is known in the art to provide a computer controlled fiber optic temperature monitoring system with computer readable medium and storing the program instructions for the computer.

SAI'948 further teaches or suggests that it is advantageous to provide computer readable medium containing the program instructions in order to benefit from the ability to carry out the desired instructions automatically by the computer.

SAI'948 is evidence that ordinary workers in the field of fiber optic temperature monitoring would recognize the benefit of providing computer readable medium containing the program instructions as taught by SAI'948 for the instructions/programming of IIDA'220 in order to benefit from the ability to carry out the desired instructions automatically by the computer.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a computer controlled system with a computer readable medium containing the program instructions in order to carry out the method of SISTER using the desired instructions automatically by the computer as taught by SAI'948.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

Conclusion

13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The prior art cited in a form PTO-892 and not mentioned above disclose related fiber optic devices and methods for computer controlling systems.

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stanley J. Pruchnic, Jr., whose telephone number is **(571) 272-2248**. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays (Monday through Friday) from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego F. F. Gutierrez can be reached at **(571) 272-2245**.

The ***Official FAX*** number for Technology Center 2800 is **(703) 872-9306** for ***all official communications***.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding may be directed to the official USPTO website at **http://www.uspto.gov/** or you may call the **USPTO Call Center** at **800-786-9199** or 703-308-4357. The Technology Center 2800 Customer Service FAX phone number is (703) 872-9317.

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DIEGO F. F. GUTIERREZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

SDG

Stanley J. Pruchnic, Jr.
5/19/04